

REMARKS

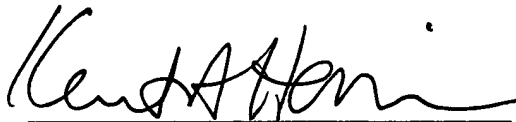
Claims 25-34 are rejected either under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Long (U.S. Pat. No. 4,805,366) or under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Long in view of Keith (U.S. Pat. No. 5,996,297). These grounds of rejection are respectfully traversed. The Examiner takes the position that Long discloses a wall panel "wherein each connector has longitudinally extending portions (fig. 4: 21 & 28), spaced apart and connected by an internal web (fig. 4: 22 and 31)". This position is contrary to the language of the claims taken in view of the specification. The specification makes it clear that the "web" of the present invention is identified in the drawings using reference numeral 28 (page 6, line 28; page 7, lines 27-28; Figs. 1-3). It is structure corresponding to the web 28 that is recited in the claims 25-34 and not the anchoring surfaces 36 (which admittedly can be seen as corresponding to the reduced cross-sectional area portions 23, 24, 28, and 29 of Long).

New claims 35 and 36 have been added to recite positively the anchoring surfaces.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 102 and 103 rejections of the claims in view of these remarks and the added claims is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully urged to call the undersigned attorney at (515) 288-2500 to discuss the claims in an effort to reach a mutual agreement with respect to claim limitations in the present application which will be effective to define the patentable subject matter if the present claims are not deemed to be adequate for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,



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